

Stern Bars Kennedy Book Censorship

11/7/67

Special to The New York Times

BONN, Jan. 16.—Henri Mannen, editor in chief of the West German magazine Stern, said today that any change in William Manchester's book "The Death of a President" would increase what he said was an impression that the truth was being manipulated.

In a foreword to Stern's second installment of the book, Mr. Mannen said his magazine would not submit to censorship for the sake of Senator Robert Kennedy's career.

"The animosity between the Kennedys and the Johnsons is not our affair," he said. "We admire the career of Bobby Kennedy, but concern over his success will not induce us to suppress the news."

Stern's second installment, which appeared in West Germany today, contains the second half of Look magazine's first installment. Stern bought

the German rights from Look.

The second Stern installment contains only one major passage not printed by Look. It tells of the Kennedys' stay in the Hotel Texas in Fort Worth the night before the assassination. The passage, retranslated from the German, reads:

"Before she lay down she went once again to her husband who had put on his blue and white striped pajamas. They could not spend the night together. The mattress had been removed from his double bed, and on one side of the bed lay the hard sleeping board on which he [because of his wartime back injury] had to sleep. Next to it was nothing but naked springs.

"They entered a long embrace, but were so exhausted that they actually supported more than held one another."

The passage continues: "I have a devilish stomach ache,"

he groaned as he lay in bed. She opened the window and turned out the light."

Mrs. Kennedy then said good night and went out, "sorry that she was parted from him."

Mr. Mannen has said he did not print anything personally harmful to Mrs. Kennedy or her children. He said the desired deletions were of historical interest.

Look magazine is filing suit against Stern for what William Attwood, editor in chief of Cowles Communications, called breach of contract in publishing the uncut version.

Today, a member of a West German Parliament appealed to Mr. Mannen not to print sections deleted by Look. Dr. Ulrich Lohmar, Social Democrat, called on Mr. Mannen to reclarify the borders between political information and journalistic sensationalism by reconsidering his decision.

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